

North East Linguistics Society

Volume 24
Issue 1 *NELS 24: Volume One*

Article 1

1994

Front Matter

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Recommended Citation

Gonzàlez, Mercè (1994) "Front Matter," *North East Linguistics Society*. Vol. 24 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/nels/vol24/iss1/1>

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NELS 24

Proceedings of the North East
Linguistic Society

Edited by
Mercè González

Volume One

University of Massachusetts
Amherst

1994

Preface

This edition of the *Proceedings of the North East Linguistic Society* compiles in two volumes the papers presented at its 24th Annual Meeting, held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (November 19, 20, 21, 1993), and sponsored by the Graduate School, the Department of Linguistics, and the Graduate Linguistic Student Association (GLSA). The NELS 24 Organizing Committee gratefully acknowledges the services of all the scholars who helped in evaluating the abstracts submitted.

The members of the Organizing Committee (Susanne Tunstall, Coordinator; Satoshi Tomioka, Jill Beckman) deserve special mention for their extensive efforts before and throughout the conference.

I wish to thank all the contributors to this edition of NELS for submitting their work for publication in a timely manner. Also, thanks to Elena Benedicto for helpful editorial guidance, technical support, and for the GLSA and NELS logo designs.

Mercè González
Editor
Amherst, April 1994

A Brief History of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS)

John Jensen and Lisa Reed

The North East Linguistic Society, originally known as the New England Linguistic Society, held its first meeting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on November 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1970. The original meeting of NELS attracted not only the expected audience from the northeastern United States, but also an unexpectedly large number of participants from eastern Canada. For this reason, at the business meeting of NELS 1, Professor David Lightfoot (at that time a professor of linguistics at McGill University) made the proposal that the conference expand the geographical range of hosting institutions to include eastern Canada. This proposal was immediately accepted and accounts for the change in title of the conference. Since NELS 1 in 1970, NELS has further expanded the geographical pool of its participants, although the traditional geographical base for hosting institutions has remained unchanged. NELS now annually draws speakers and participants from the entire United States, Canada, and Europe. It has been hosted by the following institutions, listed in chronological order:

NELS 1	(1970)	MIT
NELS 2	(1971)	McGill University
NELS 3	(1972)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NELS 4	(1973)	Brown University
NELS 5	(1974)	Harvard University
NELS 6	(1975)	Université du Québec à Montréal
NELS 7	(1976)	MIT
NELS 8	(1977)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NELS 9	(1978)	City University of New York
NELS 10	(1979)	University of Ottawa
NELS 11	(1980)	Cornell University
NELS 12	(1981)	MIT
NELS 13	(1982)	Université du Québec à Montréal
NELS 14	(1983)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NELS 15	(1984)	Brown University
NELS 16	(1985)	McGill University
NELS 17	(1986)	MIT
NELS 18	(1987)	University of Toronto
NELS 19	(1988)	Cornell University
NELS 20	(1989)	University of Pittsburgh
NELS 21	(1990)	Université du Québec à Montréal
NELS 22	(1991)	University of Delaware
NELS 23	(1992)	University of Ottawa
NELS 24	(1993)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst

NELS has always been and remains the most prestigious conference in theoretical linguistics hosted in its geographical area and it is among the most highly respected in the field at large. (Conferences in theoretical linguistics of comparable quality, hosted in different geographical areas, include the Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS), the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL), and the Generative Linguists of the Old World (GLOW).) The papers presented at NELS are of a consistently high calibre, not only because of the large number of abstracts received (generally over 200, from which only 15% are selected), but also because of the anonymous reviewing procedure employed (leading figures in the field are asked to conduct the reviewing process). The papers

presented at NELS have appeared in published form since NELS 5, and are frequently cited in refereed journals of the field. Since NELS 11, the proceedings have been published by the Graduate Linguistic Student Association at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

From its beginning, NELS has been organized by the Linguistic graduate students association of the hosting institution, although one or two faculty members from the department frequently lend assistance. As a result, every effort is made by the organizing committee to insure that a significant number of speakers are graduate students. This tradition has been maintained principally because it provides graduate students who are relatively new in the field with a unique opportunity to meet and discuss their work with established researchers from other universities.

Proceedings of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS)

NELS 1 to 7 and 9 to 10 are not distributed by GLSA. NELS 1 to 4 were not published. For copies of NELS 5 to 10, please contact the linguistics department of the university at which that year's conference was held. NELS 8 was held at UMass-Amherst and is available from GLSA in a reduced xerox format. NELS 11 to 18 are out of print but are also available from GLSA in a reduced xerox format. Please contact GLSA at the following e-mail address for further information or to receive a Publications Catalog :

glsa@linguist.umass.edu

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